VII. *An Account of a Book Intituled,* Phalænologia nova ſive Obſervationes de Rarioribus quibuſdam *Balænis* in *Scotiæ* Littus nuper ejectis, *&c.* Aut. *Roberto Sibbald, Edinburgi* in *Quarto*, 1692.

THE Author of that Excellent Book, Entituled, *Scotia Illuſtrata*; hath in this given us a Curious Specimen of the advance he hath made in the Natural Hiſtory of that Kingdom; containing many Obſervations altogether new, and very well worthy to be known. In the Preface he propoſes to treat only of ſuch Whales as are found in the Seas of *Scotland*; and having prov'd from ſeveral Writers, that the *Britiſh* Ocean was formerly frequented by Whales, he obſerves, that tho' the very large Whales, which were formerly found in the *Britiſh* Seas, and were accounted the vaſteſt in the World, ſeem ſince Navigation has been ſo much uſed in theſe Seas, to have retired to *Greenland*, yet there are ſtill a great many ſmaller Whales, and ſome larger ones too, caſt upon the Shores of *Scotland* every Year. He then gives the ſeveral diſtinctions of them; *1ſt*, Some are very large, CXX, CXXXIV Feet long, ſome of a ſmaller ſize down to XXIV, XVIII Feet, or leſs. *2dly*, Some have only two Fins, others have a third upon their Back. *3dly*, Some have a Pipe or Spout in their Snout, others have Noſtrils. *4thly*, Some have Teeth, others have horny Plates, in their Mouths.

The

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The Book is divided into Three Sections, in which he firſt treats of the ſmaller Whales, and ſo proceeds to ſpeak of thoſe that are larger. The Firſt Section is concerning the leſſer ſort of Whales, both thoſe that have a Spout, and thoſe that have Noſtrils, as well ſuch as have Teeth in both their Jaws, as thoſe that have them only in the lower.

The Second Section concerns the larger Whales, which have Teeth only in the lower Jaw. In the Third Section we have an Account of thoſe Whales, that have horny Plates in their upper Jaw; which Plates we in *England* improperly call Whale-bone.

In the Firſt Section he enumerates the ſeveral ſorts of Whales that have Teeth, by way of Preface; and in the Firſt Chapter ſpeaks of the ſmaller ſort of Whales, whereof he gives a large Deſcription, as likewiſe he hath done of all; the reſt that follow theſe, have Teeth in both their Jaws, by the *Engliſh* called the *Grampus*; they are voracious and fierce Enemies to other Whales, and it may be thought that their fury many times drives the large Whales upon the Shore: thoſe have a Spout and Three Fins. The Second Chapter treats of a ſort of Whales, that have Teeth only in their lower Jaw, and without any Fin on the Back, which have not been deſcrib'd by any Author: theſe have Noſtrils. The Third, of the leaſt ſort, of Whales, of an uncertain Claſs. He obſerves, That the Fleſh of ſome of thoſe being buried at the Roots of ſome Fruit-Trees, thoſe Trees bore abundantly the next Year.

In the Second Section he treats of the larger Whales, which have Teeth only in their lower Jaw. In the Preface he takes notice of two ſorts; but that which has but one Tooth, and is taken for the Unicorn, not being ever

ſeen in thoſe Seas, the Author ſays nothing of it. He ſhews wherein the ſeveral ſorts of the larger Whales that have Teeth do agree, and wherein they differ.

In the firſt Chapter he ſpeaks of the great Whales, with a very large Head, that have only two lateral Fins. Theſe as all the reſt of the Whales treated of in this Section, have a Spout. The length of them is from 50, to 80 Feet. The Oyl of theſe Whales is eaſily coagulated with Cold into a hard and white ſubſtance like fat, and is of great uſe in Wounds, Aches, and hard Tumours.

In the Second Chapter we have an Account of the Whale with a large Head, that has a Fin upon his Back, and hookt Teeth in the lower Jaw. In this Whale is found the beſt *Sperma Ceti*, which lies both within, and on the outſide of the Skull; and this laſt is ſometimes two Feet thick.

The Third Chapter concerns the large headed Whale with three Fins, that has ſtreighter Teeth, that are plain at the end. This has been found to have a great quantity of *Sperma Ceti*, of the better ſort.

In the Fourth Chapter the Author gives us an Account of the *Sperma Ceti*, which is of two ſorts; that which is found floating on the Sea, and that which is found in the Whale. He concludes this Chapter with the Vertues of it, and affirms it to be a true natural *Sal Volatile Oleoſum.*

The Fifth Chapter is concerning the Teeth of theſe Whales, where he propoſes the Experiment of them in thoſe caſes, where the Horn of the Sea-Unicorn is ſo much commended.

In the Third Section he treats of the large Whales, that have horny Plates in their upper Jaw, which he begins with a Preface concerning theſe Whales in general, and endeavours to prove, that there are no Whales, that have theſe horny Plates in both their Jaws.

The Firſt Chapter is of thoſe kind of Whales which have but two Fins, both thoſe which have a Spout, and thoſe that have none; where the Author makes mention of one that was ſeventy Foot long.

The Second Chapter concerns in general that ſort of Whales that have three Fins, and Noſtrils.

In the Third Chapter we have an Account of the ſort of Whale with three Fins, which has a ſharp Snout, and folds in the Belly, and no Spout, but Noſtrils. He obſerves, that the lateral Fins of it being excarnated, are like the whole Arm, with a Plate-bone, Shoulder-bone, *Radius*, and *Ulna*, *Metacarpus*, and Fingers.

In the Fourth Chapter he treats of the Whale with horny Plates, and three Fins, which has the lower Jaw round, and much broader than the upper. This Whale has no Spout; but two Holes near his Forehead.

In the Fifth Chapter we have ſome Account of a very large Whale of this ſort, caſt upon the Shoar of *Boêna*, in which they found no *Sperma Ceti*.

The Sixth Chapter is of the horny Plates, the Folds, and the Oyl of this ſort of Whales. The Oyl of them is us'd for making of Soap, *&c.* but not in Phyſick.

At the end of the Book we have an Appendix, where the Author firſt makes a ſhort Preface concerning thoſe things

things that are common to Whales; he obſerves, that they are great Lovers of Ambergriſe, and that it is ſometimes found in their Stomachs. Whether the Ambergriſe is found only in thoſe that have Teeth in their lower Jaw, or in ſome others, or in all, he cannot determine. He obſerves, that they all have a great Love for their Young, carrying them when they are very young, under their lateral Fins, and following them when they are bigger: which he thinks may have given the occaſion of that Fable of the Fiſh that guides the Whale.

The Firſt Chapter of the Appendix is concerning the Fat of Whales. The Second of their Fleſh. The Third of the Whale's Pizzle, and its Uſe in Phyſick. In the Fourth Chapter the Author gives us an Account of Ambergriſe, of its Original, Nature, and Vertues. The laſt Chapter is of the Time when the Whales are ſeen.

Of all theſe Whales the Author hath given an exact Deſcription in the ſeveral Chapters wherein they are mentioned.

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